

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

12 June 2002

B5-0334/2002 }
B5-0337/2002 }
B5-0347/2002 }
B5-0351/2002 }
B5-0360/2002 }
B5-0370/2002 }

RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 50(5) of the Rules of Procedure by

- Maria Martens, Mary Elizabeth Banotti and Thomas Mann on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Stephen Hughes, Anna Karamanou, Marie-Hélène Gillig, Proinsias De Rossa, Minerva Melpomeni Malliori and Margrietus J. van den Berg on behalf of the PSE Group
- Marieke Sanders-ten Holte on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Patsy Sörensen on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Yasmine Boudjenah, Laura González Álvarez, Feleknas Uca, Ilda Figueiredo and Herman Schmid on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Cristiana Muscardini on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- Verts/ALE (B5-0334/2002),
- UEN (B5-0337/2002),
- ELDR (B5-0347/2002),
- PSE (B5-0351/2002),
- PPE-DE (B5-0360/2002),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0370/2002),

on child labour in the production of sports equipment

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PE 319.169}
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PE 319.732}
PE 319.741}
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European Parliament resolution on child labour in the production of sports equipment

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child,
 - having regard to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children, held in New York on 9-10 May 2002,
 - having regard to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and notably Article 24 on the rights of the child,
 - having regard to the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights,
 - having regard to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 86th session on 18 June 1998,
 - having regard to ILO Conventions No. 138 of 1973 and No.182 of 1999 on the effective abolition of child labour,
 - having regard to the Commission communication to the Council, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee entitled ‘Promoting core labour standards and improving social governance in the context of globalisation’ (COM(2001) 416),
 - having regard to the Commission communication and to its own report on corporate social responsibility (COM(2001)366, A5-159/02),
 - having regard to the 'Charter of Intent' adopted by the Organising Committee for the XXth Winter Olympic Games (Torino 2006),
 - whereas the ILO has chosen 12 June as World Day against Child Labour,
 - having regard to its former resolutions on child labour,
- A. whereas the use of child labour in the football industry is still common practice world-wide, despite the fact that FIFA and the sporting goods companies are bound by a contract which they signed in 1998, with a FIFA Code of Labour Practice included, prohibiting the use of child labour in its licensed products,
- B. whereas FIFA admitted in 2000 that there was a problem in making sure that the 'premium balls' featuring the company's brand name and the name of the event (in this case the 2002 World Cup) were only sourced from official FIFA-licensees,

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- C. whereas despite the fact that FIFA, the ILO, UNICEF, trade unions and civil society organisations have established social protection projects and monitoring systems to prevent and eliminate child labour in India and Pakistan, newly published reports show clear evidence of many children, sometimes as young as 10, still producing footballs outside the main stitching areas in both countries, even with labels indicating 'no child labour used',
 - D. whereas child labour perpetuates poverty and hampers development by driving wages down, putting adults out of work and denying education, and is a violation of human dignity,
 - E. whereas the World Cup Campaign was initiated in 2001 by the Global March, born out of an international foot-march four years ago, when thousands of people took a journey over 80 000 kilometres in four continents to mobilise world-wide action against child labour,
 - F. whereas the EU should clarify its positions on social governance in the framework of the new multilateral negotiations in the WTO and whereas, on that occasion, the positions of the European Parliament must be incorporated into the Community's strategy,
 - G. whereas there is growing consumer resistance in some Western countries against buying goods manufactured by children,
1. Condemns all forms of child exploitation and calls for the eradication of child labour, particularly in the football industry;
 2. Stresses in particular the close relationship between policies to support education and those to combat child labour, and therefore calls on the Commission and the Member States to take action in this field, in order to make sure that all children removed from labour are rehabilitated and given the opportunity to receive an education, health care and food;
 3. Calls on the European Union and its Member States to ensure that provision is made in agreements with these countries for the protection of children against violence, exploitation – in particular through child labour – and abuse;
 4. Calls on FIFA and the sporting goods companies concerned to a) make sure that no child is employed in the production of FIFA-licensed sportswear and footballs b) implement the FIFA Code of Labour Practice that was agreed upon by FIFA, ICFTU, ITGLF and FIET (now UNI) in 1996 and c) agree on a transparent, credible and independent system for the monitoring and verification of production in the football industry;
 5. Calls on all sporting goods companies to a) fully implement their contractual agreement with FIFA on child labour, b) disclose all the production sites of sporting goods and enable independently verified reports to be made that their goods are produced in compliance with the FIFA Contract with the provision of living wages;

6. Urges the ILO to develop a credible and independent inspection system in order to monitor the ILO labour standards in the sporting goods industry world-wide and based on the above inspection system, and to develop ILO models of cooperation between public and private sectors to build effective methods of labour inspection;
7. Considers that more funds should be made available to the International Labour Organisation's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour;
8. Calls on FIFA and the national football associations to make the World Cup 2006 championship in Germany the first international event free of child labour and in compliance with fair labour standards;
9. Urges UNICEF to use its cooperation with FIFA to promote the rights of children, and to urge FIFA to fully implement its obligations with regard to the elimination of child labour and the implementation of other labour rights
10. Urges footballers and their representative associations to seek to ensure that in future sponsoring companies do not directly or indirectly use child labour in the production of their products;
11. Welcomes the initiative for a 'Charter of Intent' adopted by the Organising Committee for the XXth Winter Olympic Games (Torino 2006);
12. Calls on the Commission to report to the European Parliament before the end of 2002 on the steps and measures taken on this resolution;
3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, FIFA, the ILO and UNICEF.

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